

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T SANAA 001396

SIPDIS

EB/ESC/ESP (GGLASS) S/CT (SFOX), NEA, IO/PHO (APEREZ) NSC
(GPETERS), TREASURY GENERAL COUNSEL (JZARATE), TREASURY
TASK FORCE ON TERRORIST FINANCING TREASURY PASS TO OFAC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/2013

TAGS: [ETTC](#) [EFIN](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [CVIS](#) [KVPR](#) [YM](#) [TERFIN](#)

SUBJECT: TERRORIST FINANCE: YEMEN REQUESTS MORE INFORMATION
ON AL-AQSA FOUNDATION

REF: A) SANAA 1192 B) SECSTATE 137082 C) SANAA 442

Classified By: Classified by CDA Alan Misenheimer for Reasons 1.5 (B) a
nd (D)

¶1. (U) This is an Action Request, please see para 8.

¶2. (S) Summary: The Head of the Americas desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requests more information regarding the link between the Yemen Al-Aqsa Foundation and Hamas. ROYG officials are seeking an alternative charity for donations to the Palestinian people, possibly the Arab League's al-Quds foundation. In a follow up meeting, Pol/Econoff confirmed that the Ambassador had already provided information on this connection at the highest levels sufficient to justify freezing the assets of the Al-Aqsa Foundation. End Summary.

¶3. (S) In a follow-up meeting on June 9 regarding the USG's request that the ROYG freeze the assets of the local branch of the al-Aqsa Foundation, (Reftel A) Head of the America's desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abdul Salam al-Awadhi requested more information relating to al-Aqsa Foundation's support for Hamas. He stated that evidence in the USG nonpaper (Ref B) linking Sheikh al-Muayed, the head of al-Aqsa foundation, to al-Qaeda was clear. However, al-Awadhi claimed that the evidence concerning the al-Aqsa foundation itself and its connections to Hamas, were not explicit enough for the MFA to make a clear decision.

¶4. (S) Al-Awadhi said that his office is preparing a report for Foreign Minister Qirbi recommending whether or not to freeze al-Aqsa Foundation assets. At the same time, ROYG officials are also seeking alternative conduits for the public to donate money on behalf of the Palestinians (Ref A). Al-Awadhi raised the possibility of promoting the Arab League backed al-Quds Fund as a possible mechanism for charitable donations.

¶5. (S) Pol/Econoff pointed out that halting the funding for an organization that supports Hamas was particularly important in light of Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen's statements against terror at the Aqaba meetings. Al-Awadhi responded that the ROYG understood this issue, and that they did not want to be "more royal than the King" on the matter of positive support for the Palestinians.

¶6. (S) On June 11, in a subsequent meeting, Pol/Econoff confirmed to al-Awadhi that the Ministry had already been given all relevant information and that the Embassy believed the information was sufficient to justify freezing the assets of the Yemen al-Aqsa foundation. She also explained that the Ambassador had given Minister Qirbi copies of the al-Muayed indictment, which included information on al-Aqsa's activities in Yemen. Al-Awadhi politely disagreed that the ROYG had enough information to make such a decision. However, he said that all available information would be discussed by an interagency team from the Ministries of Interior, Finance and Foreign Affairs, who would decide on this matter.

¶7. (S) Comment: Al-Awadhi may not have been fully briefed on the Ambassador's conversations with Foreign Minister Qirbi regarding Sheikh al-Muayed and al-Aqsa. Either way, al-Awadhi is seeking as much information as possible to support a difficult decision for the ROYG. However, his search for more facts is postponing a decision on al-Aqsa's assets, and this may be the desired effect. End Comment.

¶8. (S) Action Request: Please advise Post on the Arab League's al-Quds Fund, in particular whether there are objections to its possible designation by the ROYG as an acceptable conduit for donations from Yemeni citizens to the Palestinians.

MISENHEIMER